

**CLAIMS**

1. A process for the production of conjugated linoleic acid, in which
  - (a) linoleic acid lower alkyl esters containing 1 to 5 carbon atoms in a linear or branched alkyl chain are isomerized in the presence of alkali metal alcoholates,
  - (b) the then conjugated linoleic acids are released from the ester after saponification and
  - (c) the free linoleic acids are subjected to crystallization.
2. A process as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the crystallization step (c) is carried out at temperatures below 10°C.
3. A process as claimed in at least one of claims 1 and/or 2, characterized in that the crystallization step (c) is carried out one or more times.